Stampedes at religious fairs

†558.SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of stampedes and casualties therein has been continuously increasing in the religious fairs being organized in the different States of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to give directions to the State Governments to control such situation and stop such incidents in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Recently, two major incidents of stampede at temples have occurred In Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. As per available information, the details of major incidents of stampede in various temples, during 2005-2008 are as under:-

Date	Place	State/UT	No. of Persons*	
			Killed	Injured
25.1.2005	Mandradevi Temple, Satara	Maharashtra	291	98
4.11.2006	Jagannath Temple, Puri	Orissa	4	22
13.8.2007	Baidayanath Dham, Deoghar	Jharkahand	11	-
14.10.2007	Mahakall Temple, Pavagadh Panchamahal	Gujarat	11	17
3.1.2008	Kanakadurga Temple, Vijaywada	Andhra Pradesh	6	-
26.3.2008	Mata Janaki Temple, Karilia	Madhya Pardesh	8	11
4.7.2008	Jagannath Temple, Puri	Orissa	6	3
3.8.2008	Nainadevi	Himachal	142	85
	Temple, Bilaspur	Pradesh		
30.09.2008	Chamunda Devi Temple, Jodhpur	Rajasthan	147	55

* Gender-wise data is not centrally maintained.

(b) and (c) An advisory was issued to all States/UTs on 21.2.2005 to take effective steps to manage the crowd during religious festivals/fairs. These measures may, *inter-alia*, include proper and adequate civic and other logistic arrangements; maintenance of law and order and security

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

arrangements during such festivals. On 1.10.2008, another advisory has been issued to all States/UTs suggesting measures such as allowing manageable number of persons to visit the temple/shrine at a particular time; proper access control procedure/ system at every entry/exit point; establishing sound alert system; regular training of staff in evacuation procedures; etc. to avoid recurrence of incidents of stampede in future.

(d) Does not arise.

Lack of IT Technology for fighting cyber crimes

559. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that security forces are lacking in IT technology and are inadequate in dealing with cyber crimes;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government; and

(c) the details of fiscal allocation for application of IT technologies to strengthen internal security forces and police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government has been making efforts for the modernization, and strengthening the capabilities of the Central Security. Forces and intelligence agencies, as well as the State Police under the Scheme for modernization of State Police Forces (MPF). These, *inter alia*, include measures to strengthen the capabilities with regard to cyber crimes and the use of cyber space for crimes, through different types of equipment and gadgetary, training, etc. It has also been decided recently to establish a Research and Technology central in the intelligence set up with a view to continuously study development in the sphere of technology and tacked, etc., and evolve counter measures to deal with various kinds of crimes including cyber crimes.

(c) Apart from general emphasis on increased use of IT technologies by the security agencies, it has been decided to launch a separate scheme, namely Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System, for which an outlay of Rs. 2,000 crores has been provided in the 11th Plan, which envisages computerization of Police operations from the Police Station level upwards, lateral and hierarchical networking, and creation of various types of databases at the local, State and national levels which *inter alia*, would assist in more effective tracking of criminals and control of crimes.

Shortage of police personnel for tackling terror and crime

560. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Police are understaffed to meet the challenge of tackling terror and crime;

(b) whether there are more than 1.3 lakhs vacancies in the Central and State police force;

(c) if so, the details thereof;